

TRUE ADVENTURES OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES!

Real LIFE

10¢

COMICS

SEPT.
NO. 25

COMMANDER
"BUS" MILLER
ACE of the RELUCTANT RAIDERS



MARCUS
WHITMAN



CAPTAIN
JOHN DAVIS



COMMANDER
BULKELEY



CORONADO

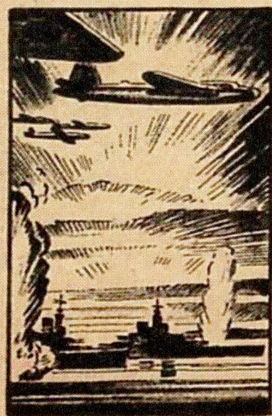
Real LIFE COMICS

No. 25

Every Picture-Story New

PRICE 10¢

Let's Finish the Job!



When the last Japanese division has surrendered unconditionally, then only will our fighting job be done.—President Truman.

THESE words of our President are a challenge to the American boys and girls whose devoted work on behalf of the war effort helped to bring about the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany.

It is up to those millions of young Americans, who have already done so much to back up our fighting men, to continue to support the country's all-out drive against the men of Nippon. There is still plenty of work to do.

Keep buying war stamps and bonds. Collect used clothing for needy war victims. Contribute to the Red Cross and the National War Fund. Participate in salvage drives for used tin cans, fats, paper.

Your efforts will smooth the road to Tokyo, and help insure America against ever having the evil little brown men upon our shores except as prisoners of war.

Let's finish the job!

—THE EDITOR.

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

1. THE INDESTRUCTIBLE YANK

The Germans put up some stiff resistance in the Cassino area of the Italian front, but they discovered they were up against men made of stern stuff when fellows like Sergeant Martin Schreck moved in upon them!

2. SKIPPER OF THE SEVEN SEAS

Captain John Davis set out on many odysseys of adventure in the Sixteenth Century, and they carried him from the Arctic waters North of Canada to the tropical shores of the Indies, proving the hardihood of English seamen.

3. BULKELEY OF THE ENDICOTT

The Mediterranean Sea was the scene of the latest headline exploit of this famous American Naval hero, and he proved that he is just as capable on the quarterdeck of a destroyer as he is when skipping a PT boat.

4. SKANDERBEG, HERO OF THE BALKANS

More than five hundred years ago, this national hero of Albania led his valiant countrymen in their first war against oppression and established a tradition that still burns in the hearts of modern Albanians.

5. MAN OF HONOR

Felix Ehrenhaft, heroic Viennese scientist, realized the importance of the sacred trust placed in him — and defied the Nazis despite grim threats of violence, fierce torture and Storm Trooper brutality.

6. THE MIGHTY MCGEE

Mike McGee liked to be known as just another G.I. Joe, but his was the spirit that sparked scores of his buddies when they were up against Hitler's vaunted panzer units on the Caen front of the Normandy Beachhead a week after D-Day.

7. MARCUS WHITMAN, BLAZER OF THE OREGON TRAIL

This sturdy pioneer knew the importance of settlement in Washington, Oregon and the other Northwestern states, and he had the courage and skill to open up vast stretches of territory for the American people.

8. COMMANDER "BUS" MILLER

He was the ace of the "Reluctant Raiders," but he would be the first one to agree that the other boys in his Liberator were also important figures in smashing Jap resistance in the Southwest Pacific. A thrilling air saga.

9. CORONADO

Gold for the King of Spain, Gold for the Viceroy of Mexico. These were the lures, but Francisco Coronado opened up great prospects in the Southwest that have contributed a good deal more than yellow metal to America.

10. G.I. GENERAL

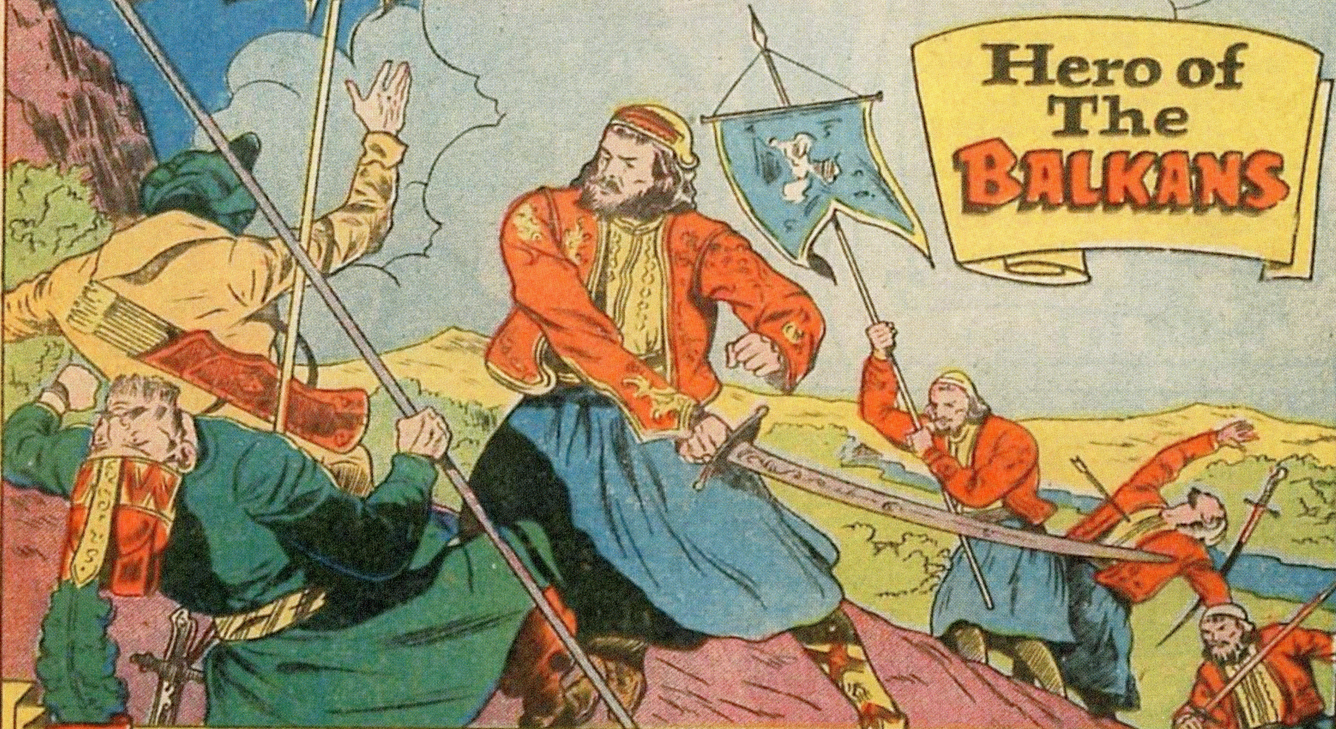
The strange but true story of how Private Theodore Bachenheimer became the commanding officer of Netherlands guerrilla forces, and suddenly found himself concluding important military decisions for the Allies in Western Europe.

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SKANDERBEG

Hero of
The
BALKANS



WITH the world rocked by tremendous events -- we are apt to forget one of the first victims of Axis conquest -- the tiny Adriatic kingdom of **ALBANIA!** But with Albanian patriots still resisting Hitler's overwhelming armies, it might be well to learn how these sturdy Balkan mountaineers won their liberty -- and why they are determined to keep it! That is the story of **SKANDERBEG** -- the national hero of Albania -- who five hundred years ago led his countrymen in their first war against oppression!

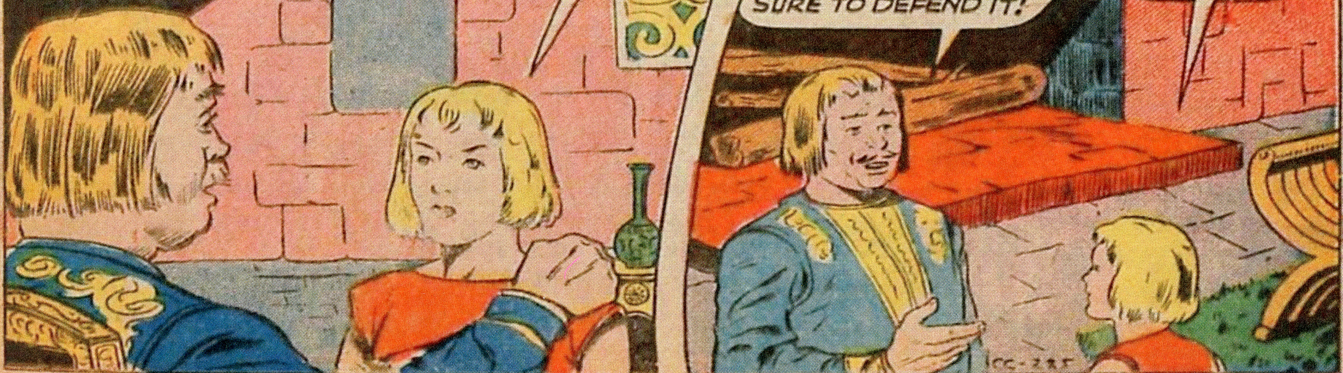
In 1414 -- at the castle of an Albanian nobleman --

MY SON, WE CASTRIOTAS HAVE EVER BEEN WARRIORS! YOU MUST GO TO YOUR UNCLE'S STRONGHOLD AT KROJA -- AND LEARN TO BEAR YOUR ARMS PROUDLY -- AND HONOR OUR NAME!

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE HOME, FATHER! IF THE CLANS ARE AT PEACE -- WHY MUST WE THINK ALWAYS OF WAR?

ONLY THE WEAK HAVE ENEMIES, GEORGE! THE TIME WILL COME WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT OUR LAND CAN MEAN --- WHEN YOUR SWORD MUST BE QUICK AND SURE TO DEFEND IT!

I KNOW NOTHING NOW BUT YOUR WISDOM AND COURAGE! I'LL GO TO KROJA, FATHER!



WHEN the mighty Mogul Empire of Tamerlane collapsed, Turkey began the re-conquest of Eastern Europe!

Only a few weeks after George Castriota left for Kroja -- the troops of Mohammed I overran Albania!...

And at Kroja Fortress...

MAN BY MAN, THE TURKS ARE WHITTling US DOWN! WE MUST SURRENDER, GEORGE!

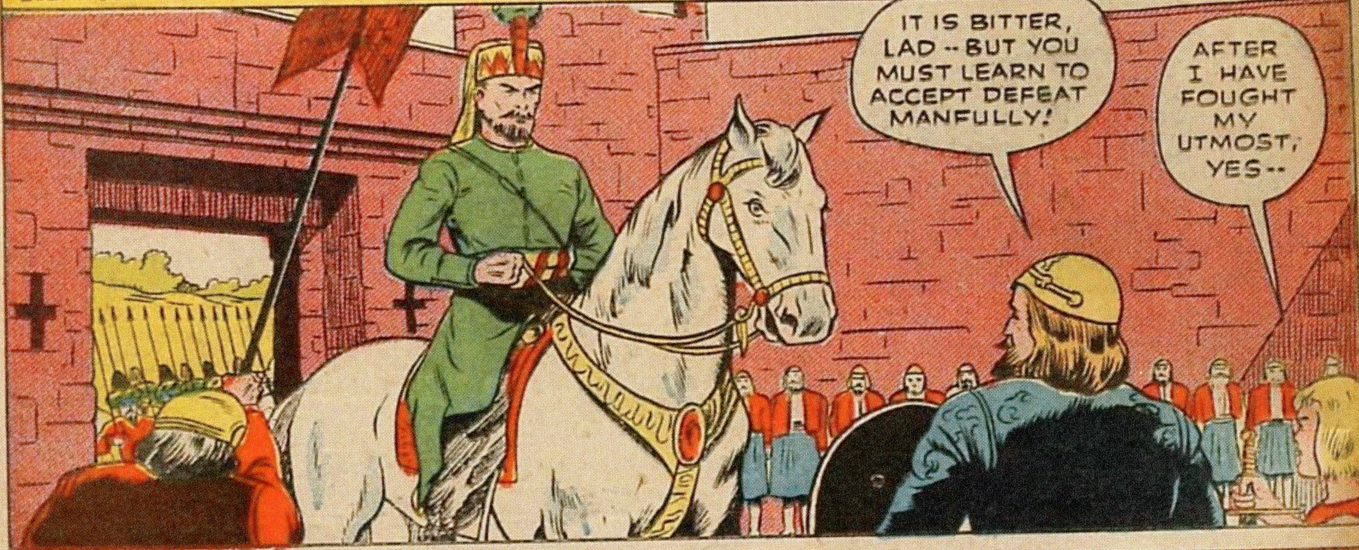
BUT THIS IS MY FIRST BATTLE -- AND I HAVEN'T USED MY SWORD YET!



As the victorious Ottomans marched into the castle court...

IT IS BITTER, LAD -- BUT YOU MUST LEARN TO ACCEPT DEFEAT MANFULLY!

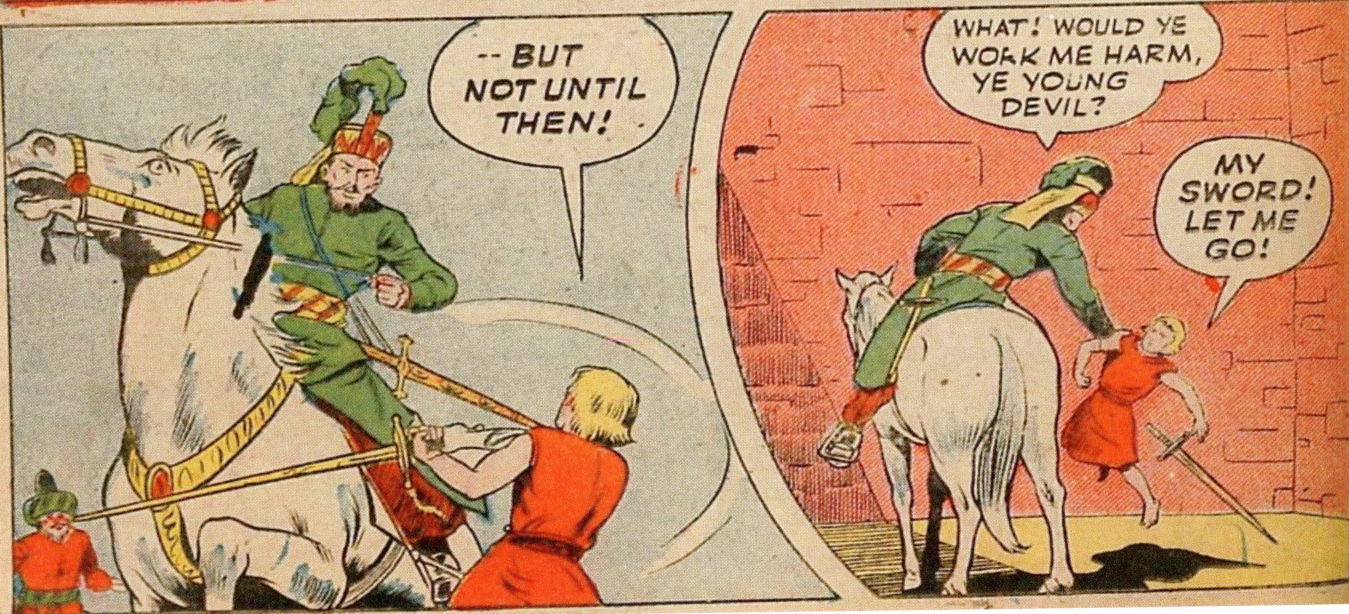
AFTER I HAVE FOUGHT MY UTMOST, YES --



-- BUT NOT UNTIL THEN!

WHAT! WOULD YE WORK ME HARM, YE YOUNG DEVIL?

MY SWORD! LET ME GO!



SPARE HIM, ISMET BEY! THE BOY IS HEADSTRONG-- AND EAGER TO PROVE HIS DARING!

AND SO HE HAS! WITH THE RIGHT MASTER-- SUCH COURAGE COULD MAKE HIM GREAT!

HE SHALL BE SENT TO ISTANBUL AS A HOSTAGE-- AND LIVE WITH MY FAMILY! HE SHALL BE REARED AS A NOBLE YOUTH DESERVES-- PROVIDED ALBANIA REMAINS PLACID UNDER TURKISH RULE!

Converted to the Moslem faith, learning the Turkish language, George slowly forgot his homeland!

TWO STROKES-- BEFORE THE REED CAN HIT THE GROUND!

AY! --A MASTER SWORDSMAN! --AND LEARNED IN THE KORAN AS WELL--

THE SULTAN HIMSELF HAS PRAISED THE YOUTH!

As Iskander Bey-- the young Albanian became an officer of the Ottoman army!

THE SERBIAN CHIEFTAINS HAVE RISEN AGAINST US! YOU SHALL COMMAND AN ARMY IN THE FIELD!

MAY I PROVE WORTHY OF THE HONORS YOU BESTOW, RADIANT ONE!

A wily strategist and a daring campaigner-- Iskander Bey swept through the Balkans!

ALLAH BE MAGNIFIED!

A-A-AGH!

Fifteen years later...

YOU HAVE PROVED A GREAT GENERAL AND A WISE GOVERNOR, ISKANDER BEY! FOR A FOREIGNER, YOU HAVE COME FAR!

I LIKE NOT THE SOUND OF THAT WORD! THE SULTAN HIMSELF IS NO TRUER TURK THAN I!

Meanwhile -- in Hungary -- Janos Hunyadi rallied the forces of Christendom!

ARE WE TO DO NOTHING BUT TALK ABOUT THE INVINCIBLE TURKS? ...

THEY MUST BE DRIVEN FROM EUROPE!

Hunyadi's cavalry defeated the Ottomans in a desperate battle!

STRIKE! -- IN THE SAVIOR'S NAME!

FALL BACK -- BEFORE THEIR CANNON SWEEP THE ROAD!

For weeks -- brooding over his first defeat --

CAN IT BE A SIGN FROM HEAVEN? CAN IT BE I SERVE THE OPPRESSOR -- INSTEAD OF FIGHTING HIM?

Soon afterward -- amazing news provided the answer!

HEED, GREAT ONE! REBELLION HAS BROKEN OUT IN ALBANIA! -- AND ALREADY TWELVE OF OUR ALBANIAN OFFICERS HAVE DESERTED!

LITTLE YOU KNOW WHAT SUCH TIDINGS MEAN! I SHALL RIDE AFTER THEM!

THE GENERAL!
ON GUARD,
BROTHERS!

CHECK US
AT YOUR PERIL,
ISKANDER
BEY!

WAIT!
STAY
YOUR
SWORDS!

FORGET THE TURK--ISKANDER BEY--
AND KNOW ME AS **SKANDERBEG**--
WHO WILL FIGHT FOR THE LAND
OF HIS ANCESTORS!

Thus--with a handful of followers,
Skanderbeg returned to Albania!

WE ARE THIRTEEN
AGAINST THOUSANDS!
HOW THEN SHALL
WE STRIKE?

IT IS THIRTY YEARS
SINCE I LAST BEHELD
KROJA CASTLE--THERE
WAS A BOY THEN WHO
WEPT TO SEE IT TAKEN--
THERE IS A MAN NOW
WHO WILL RISK ALL
TO REGAIN IT!

At the
ancient
citadel...

STAND,
STRANGER!
WHO ARE YE?

ISKANDER BEY!--
IN THE SULTAN'S
NAME, OPEN!

Terrified by a spirited attack, the huge garrison ceded!

THE CASTLE'S WON,
SKANDERBEG!

AY!--AND WITH IT--
WEAPONS!

GLA-A-A!

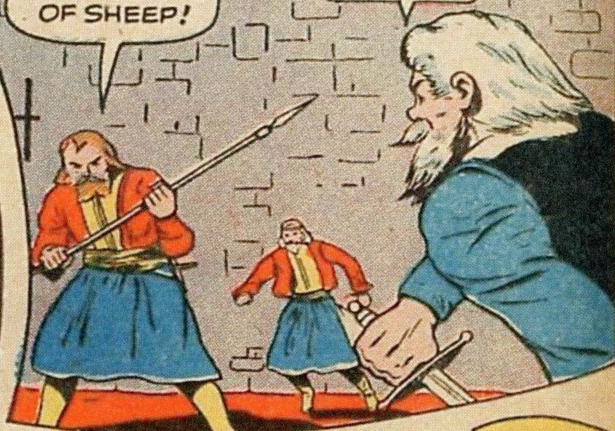
Hundreds of fierce chieftains joined the revolt!



--and for a time--many ancient feuds flared dangerously!

THE CHIEF OF THE TARKIS!-- JACKAL--STEALER OF SHEEP!

AND YOU, COWARD--WHOSE SECOND COUSIN SLEW MY BROTHER'S FRIEND!



FOOLS! WITH FIFTY THOUSAND TURKS MARCHING AGAINST US--SHALL WE GABBLE INSULTS? DO WE FIGHT FOR TRIBE AND FAMILY--OR ALBANIA?

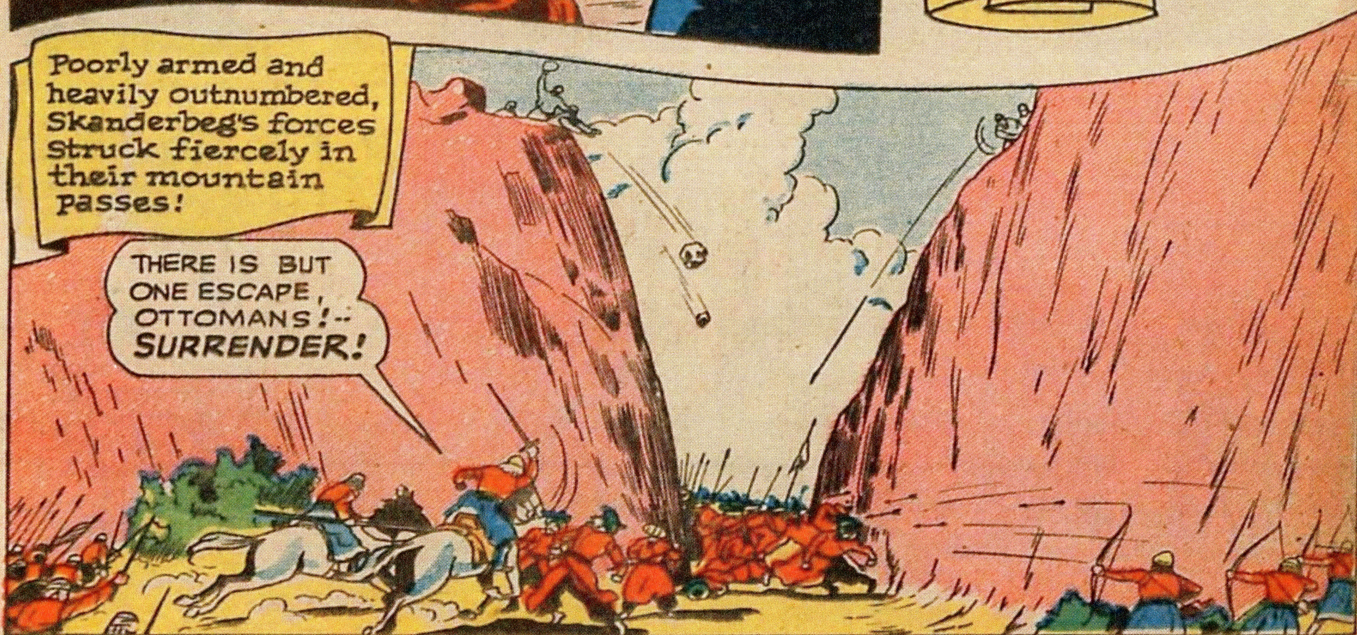


RENOUNCING the Moslem faith, **SKANDERBEG** married the daughter of a powerful Albanian nobleman!

Finally united in a common cause, the clans met at the village of Alessio and named Skanderbeg **GENERAL OF THE PATRIOT ARMY!**

Poorly armed and heavily outnumbered, Skanderbeg's forces struck fiercely in their mountain passes!

THERE IS BUT ONE ESCAPE, OTTOMANS!--**SURRENDER!**



For seventeen years -- the Turks were checked! Then, in Rome...

IT IS TRUE I HAVE AGREED TO AN ARMISTICE, HOLY FATHER! THE SULTAN MOHAMMED HAS BRIBED SEVERAL OF MY AIDES -- AND I SEEK TIME TO WEED THEM OUT!

YOU HAVE PROVED YOURSELF A GREAT CHAMPION OF FREEDOM, SKANDERBEG! THE CHURCH PLANS A NEW CRUSADE AGAINST THE INFIDEL -- AND YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO OPEN THE CAMPAIGN!

Back at Kroja...

WELL ENOUGH TO WAGE A CRUSADE, SKANDERBEG, BUT LET US AWAIT HELP FROM VENICE AND HUNGARY!

DID WE LOOK TO VENICE AND HUNGARY BEFORE? NO, BROTHERS -- AS WE FOUGHT FOR OUR LAND -- LET US FIGHT FOR OUR CHURCH!

Unexpectedly, the Pope died -- and the Crusade was abandoned!

Alone, Skanderbeg withstood the might of the Ottoman Empire!

AS YE GO TO MECCA TO PRAY, YE SHALL COME TO KROJA -- TO DIE!

In 1468 -- wasted by fever and weariness --

HOW SHALL WE FIGHT -- WITHOUT SKANDERBEG TO LEAD US?

MY SWORD REMAINS! -- TAKE IT -- WIELD IT BRAVELY!

ISKANDER BEY... HE WAS THE TIGER WHO LED US TO VICTORY --- HE WAS THE LION WHO BROUGHT US TO DEFEAT!

TRUE, the death of Albania's peerless leader paved the way to an era of defeat -- but the Turks themselves paid homage at Skanderbeg's tomb!

The passage of the centuries and the rise of true Democracy have stilled ancient enmities -- and today both Turks and Albanians stand firm in a common cause against the tyranny of Fascism!

ENERGY FOR A HARD FIGHT!



The LCT (Landing Craft, Tank)—launched from an LST—is a dogged, fearless lighter facing fire to feed heavy tanks and guns into beach positions. Powerful motors depend on fuel for driving energy.

Baby Ruth FEEDS QUICK FOOD-ENERGY

A non-energetic body is like an LCT without fuel. Baby Ruth is fuel for the body, rich in dextrose and other wholesome ingredients . . . bringing quick food-energy . . . helping pep up body and spirits when blood sugars run low. Men in foxholes, cockpits, or aboard ships call for more and more Baby Ruth, so civilians sometimes must wait until Uncle Sam is supplied.

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Producers of Fine Foods



Dreamy!—Cookies taste so good made with Baby Ruth

•
RECIPE ON EVERY WRAPPER



BUY U.S.
WAR BONDS
AND
STAMPS

